DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

EXCISE

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(17)

MEMORANDUM

TO: S/S-S - Mr. Tarnoff

FROM: ARA - William G. Bowdler WGB

Issues for the Incoming Administration

1. Major country-specific issues that will require early decisions include:

Caribbean Basin: how to help consolidate centrist gains in El Salvador, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean, and weaken Communist influence in Nicaragua and Grenada.

Panama: how to maintain effective working relationships on Canal operations as treaty implementation proceeds, while taking concrete steps to reduce the transit backlog.

[redacted] B1, B5

South America: how to respond to the new Argentine Government to take office March 31; when to start lifting Letelier sanctions on Chile; policy toward Bolivia.

Mexico: how to manage U.S.-Mexican relations in a way that promotes cooperation and minimizes conflict.

2. Major functional issues include:

Immigration: Select Commission Report due March 31 (will affect Mexico, Haiti, Cuba among others).

Budgetary: how much assistance to provide Jamaica and El Salvador; whether to support projected assistance to Nicaragua.

Military: how to restructure military relationships to enable more effective cooperation on legitimate

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defense matters without overemphasizing military assistance. [redacted]

Human Rights: what balance to strike, bilaterally, multilaterally, and in IFIs.

North-South: Whether to attend the proposed June mini-Summit in Mexico.

3. A number of other important issues do not seem as likely to require major early decisions. These include fisheries disputes with several countries, on-going negotiations (mainly with Mexico), including maritime boundary treaties, civil air agreements, and various trade problems.

[redacted] B5

4. Studies are not our major need. Two that could be helpful are:

-- a comprehensive study of U.S.-Mexican transportation systems and their impact on future trade; and

-- how we could support increased sub-regional economic cooperation, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean.

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